

THE FIRST-TIMER'S

guide to

BOOK REPORTS



By Danna Voth
Illustrated by Chris Sabatino

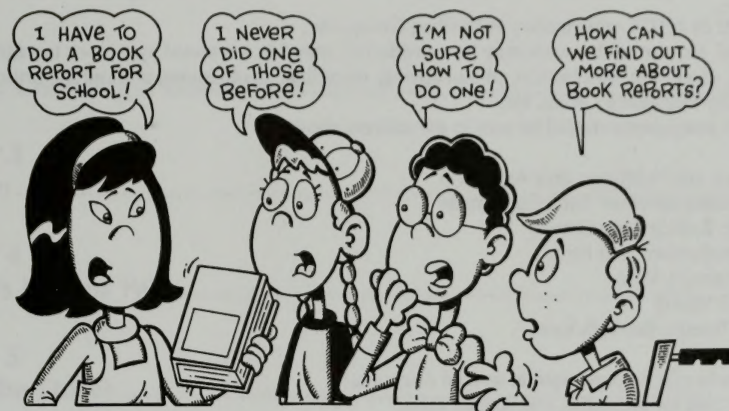
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The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports



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To Parents and Teachers

Everyone shares stories, real or make-believe, every day. Children do this naturally as they converse with family and friends. It's one of the ways we relate to one another and exchange information. Writing a book report is like telling part of a story: You reveal just enough information to intrigue readers and encourage them to find out the rest of the story on their own. By guiding your children or students through the process of collecting and writing down their thoughts on books they have read, you can help them discover the fun of sharing their reading experiences.

The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports is organized into two main sections. The first helps lead children through what's involved in doing a book report. It begins by defining what a book report is, then explores how to choose a book they might be interested in and where to look for it. Tips on what to keep in mind while reading a book are given, followed by the basic steps to writing a book report. Children are asked questions about their reactions to a book, and their answers can be worked into their reports. As they recall what they enjoyed about a book, they are encouraged to put their experiences in writing.

The second section discusses various kid-friendly book topics and genres to introduce children to the wide selection of reading experiences available to them. Sample book reports also are provided for each topic or genre, along with lists of suggested books aimed at a variety of ages, from six to nine and older.

Creating a book report should be as much fun as reading a book. To keep the activity adventurous but not competitive, children should be encouraged to choose their own books. *The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports* helps children decide what they would like to read, and explains how to find the book of their choice. Teachers may find it helpful to provide a theme, and they can use the genre descriptions in Chapter 5 for ideas.

The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports may be used for children of different ages and writing abilities. Instead of writing a report, younger children may wish to make a drawing that illustrates their reaction to a book that has been read aloud to the class by a teacher or at home by a parent. Beginning readers and writers can be encouraged to compose a paragraph of three or four sentences for their report. Older, more advanced students can write longer reports, allowing a

paragraph for each element of information: characters, setting, and so forth (see Chapter 1).

The backbone of the book report is, of course, the reading experience. Many books bring up situations and feelings children can relate to, while others describe concepts they may not understand. Help your children process the new ideas and emotions they will encounter as they read.

Be aware of what your children are reading, and make yourself available to talk with them about their new experiences. As your children make their discoveries, encourage them to share their interests, excitement, concerns, and fears.

CHALLENGE YOUR CHILDREN

It's important to challenge your children in order to foster creative thinking, but don't overwhelm them with material that is beyond their reading ability. And don't be surprised if your children learn things you never knew! Let them teach you the name of the next meteor shower, that ants are related to bees, or how to build an arch.

The book report is a wonderful tool for teaching children to think beyond their own experiences, organize and share their thoughts, and have fun with language.



Scattered throughout this book you'll find handy **First-Timer's Tips** to help guide children through the process. Suggestions such as rehearsing a book report in front of the family or keeping a reading journal are given.

Various other sidebars throughout encourage children to express themselves in different ways. The **Creative Corner** sidebars describe alternative approaches to a book report, such as writing a song, creating a mystery game, or constructing a mobile or collage.

Brain Busters challenge children to think a little deeper about their reading experience. They also encourage kids to take their project one step further, with tips on how to publish their book report or how to write an autobiography.

Many new experiences will come to your children through books. With these experiences come a variety of emotional responses. Each **My Moment** sidebar offers suggestions on dealing with these reactions, from simply discussing them openly to channeling their enthusiasm or concern in a constructive manner.

The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports is designed to guide young people through the delight of reading, the joy of discovery, and the pleasure of sharing their experiences and thoughts with others.

Open a Book, Open Your Mind

You have a new assignment: You are going to do a book report. Just what *is* a book report? Think about how you talk with your friends. You've probably told them about a great movie you saw or yesterday's episode of your favorite TV show. A book report is just like talking with your friends, only it is about something you have read. All you do is give the title of the book and the author's name, describe what it is about and your reaction to it, and *voilà*—you have a book report!

A book report may be one paragraph, or it may be several paragraphs. It is always more interesting when you tell what you liked about the book.

GETTING IT DOWN

You may be doing your book report by drawing a picture. Or you may be writing it by hand. You may want to compose your book report on the computer. Your teacher may even ask you to review your book by creating a skit, a collage, or a song.

Creating a book report is like opening a door to another world. You are giving your audience a glimpse of what you learned and imagined when you read the book. That glimpse can make them curious and inspire them to explore more on their own.

And by reading a book report written by someone else, you can learn something new, too. Do you want to learn more about how giraffes eat, or helicopters fly, or storm clouds grow? Do you like certain kinds of stories such as



science fiction, mystery, or adventure? Do you want to find what could become your favorite book in the whole world? You can learn more from reading a book report than you can from just the title of the book.

If you liked your book, then writing a report on it lets you experience those happy feelings again. Your book report is a record of your reading experience and of the things you learned from reading your book. You'll remember all the things you liked about reading your book when you write and read your book report.

The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports is easy to follow. Chapter 1 starts with the basics, explaining what a book report is. Then chapters 2, 3, and 4 describe how to choose a book, what to keep in mind while you're reading, and how to write a good report. At any time, turn to Chapter 5, where you'll find descriptions of different types of books, sample book reports, and lists of book titles you might be interested in.

Use *The First-Timer's Guide to Book Reports* to help you find books you'll enjoy, have fun while you read, explore what you like about books, and share what you discover by writing a book report.



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

Be sure to give yourself enough time to choose and read your book, as well as plan and create your report. Ask your teacher how long the steps might take, and be sure to tell your parents or guardian about your project right away. They can take you to libraries or bookstores to find your book, as well as help you with your report.

What Is a Book Report?

Your book report should always include these three parts:

1. The title—what the book is called.
2. The author—the name of the person who wrote the book.
3. The subject, or topic—what the book is about.

FICTION VS. NONFICTION

Some stories are imaginary—the characters are not real people—and we call these fiction. Books of fiction also are called novels. There are different categories of fiction, called genres (ZHahn-ruhs). Some examples of genres are mystery, western, and science fiction. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* are fiction.

Some stories are about real people, real things, or real situations, such as histories and biographies, and we call these nonfiction. A biography of first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and a book of magic tricks are nonfiction.

If a book is fiction, the book report usually includes a sentence or two about each of the following:

- 1. THE CHARACTERS.** The characters are the persons, animals, or things that act in a story. They may be funny, scary, or adventurous, and they may remind you of yourself or someone you know. Sometimes characters are interesting to you because they are so very different from you. The Grinch is a character, and so is Amelia Bedelia. Shiloh is an animal character. The Little Engine that Could is a “thing” character.
- 2. THE SETTING.** The setting is where the story takes place. There may be more than one setting in a book. The setting is also *when* the book takes place; it may be sometime in the past, present, or future. A biography of Paul Revere takes place during the American Revolution. Alice in Wonderland takes place in a make-believe world.



3. THE PLOT. The action in a story involves the main character (or characters), who faces some kind of conflict or new situation. That character often must make a choice and deal with the consequences of it. By the end of the story, the main character may have learned something or gone through a change.

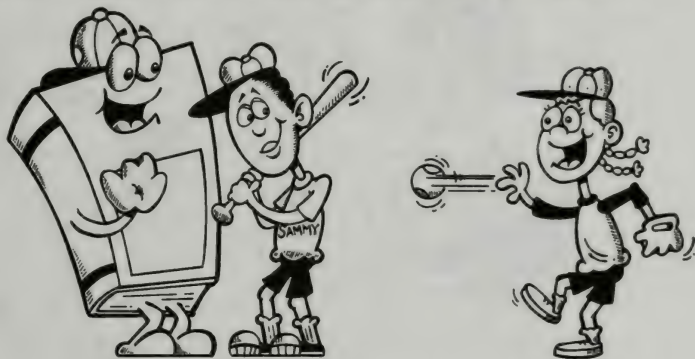
4. THE LANGUAGE. Words are the building blocks of a book—what it is literally made of. Authors choose their words carefully to craft a reading experience that meets their goals. Sometimes an author's goal is to be clear, and tell you something in a way that will make it easy for you to understand. Sometimes an author may choose words that sound musical or that rhyme. *Hop on Pop* is an example of a book with rhymes.

5. THE ILLUSTRATIONS. The pictures in a book may be the main attraction—especially if they are on every page, as in *Where the Wild Things Are*, or they may appear occasionally throughout to help describe a particular event or scene, like in an Encyclopedia Brown book. They can be drawings, paintings, or photographs. Illustrations often can tell a story as well as words can.

If your book is nonfiction, you still can follow the same guidelines. In a book on Sammy Sosa, you can treat Sammy as the main character, and the place where he grew up as one of the settings. For a book on magic tricks, you can focus on whether the instructions were easy to follow, if the illustrations were helpful, and whether you liked performing the tricks.

Finally, you need to end, or conclude, your book

report. If the main character was faced with a conflict, you may have discovered a good way or a not-so-good way to deal with a problem. Perhaps you learned how other people feel and think. A great way to end your report is to pose a question. After all, you don't want to reveal how the book ends, otherwise people may not want to read it. For the book *The Incredible Journey*, you may want to end your



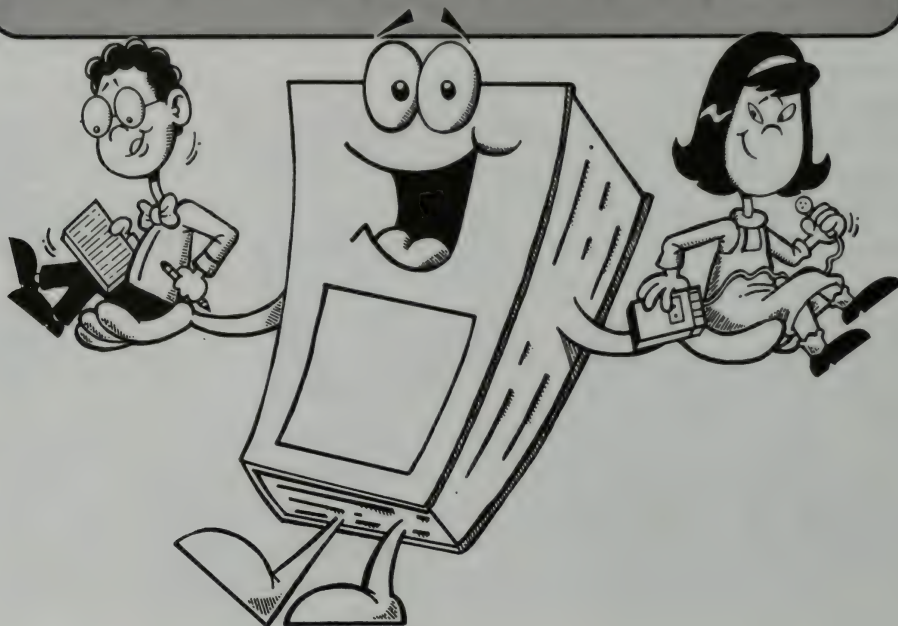
report with, "Do the three pets finally find their way home? You will have to read the book for yourself!"

Now that you have a basic idea of what a book report is, the next chapter tells you how to find a good book to read. Then, in Chapter 3, you learn what to keep in mind while you're reading. In Chapter 4, we give you tips on how to write a good book report.

As you begin your reading journey, you'll find—if you don't already know—that there are many, many different kinds of books out there. Chapter 5 describes all sorts of book topics and gives you lists of titles other kids have enjoyed and that you might be interested in.

FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

Make a record of your reading experience. It will help you when you create your book report. You could keep a reading journal, and jot down your thoughts and reactions as you read. Or you could speak into a tape recorder as you read to record your impressions.



The 411: Choosing a Good Book

Just what is a good book? A good book has characters you like, a story or topic you find exciting, dialogue or language that draws you in, pictures that impress you, or information that is new and interesting. A good book takes you places you have never been, lets you imagine different worlds, and teaches you about yourself, others, and the world. A good book is fun to read and hard to put down.

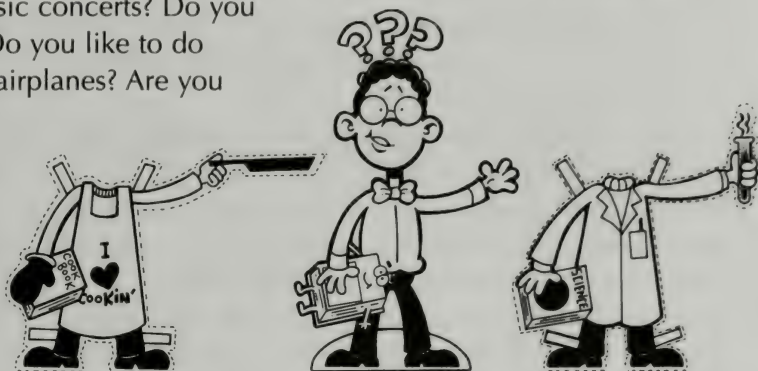
How do you find these books? One way to start is by making a list of the things you like to do. Your list will tell you what kinds of books to look for.

Here are some questions to ask yourself: Do you like sports, playing games, horseback riding, doing crafts, making music, camping, boating, or visiting new places? Do you like singing, painting, riding your bike, or cooking? What hobbies and interests do you have? Are you a fan of fashion? Do you collect something? Do you like plays or music concerts? Do you like to observe nature? Do you like to do puzzles or make model airplanes? Are you interested in bugs or clouds or dinosaurs? Do you like to read about spaceships or race cars?

What do you want to learn more about? Are you interested in

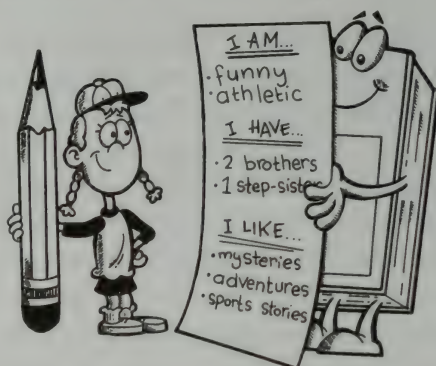
famous people in history, or the history of the place where you live? Are you curious about family life and traditions around the world? Are you curious about what growing up is like? Are you intrigued by science and technology?

Now that you have your list, look for books on the things you like to do, your hobbies and interests, or things you would like to learn to do or learn more about. You also can look for books about people who are or have been involved in your hobbies and interests. If you like funny rhymes, you might want to read *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss. If you want to read about a kid who's close to your age, try *Ramona the Pest* by Beverly Cleary. Do you like to paint? Check out *Play with Paint* by Sara Lynn. A book on Harriet Tubman may be up your alley if you are interested in African-American history.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The book you choose often shows the kind of person you are. Make a list of words that describe yourself. Are you funny, adventurous, romantic, shy, responsible? Do



you have any brothers or sisters? Where do you live? Do you like to do quiet things like read or draw, or do you like to do more physical things like play games or ride a bike? Maybe you like to do both.

You can look for books about people who are just like you, or people who are very different from you. You can read true-life stories, or imaginary ones. If you want to read a fictional story, ask yourself: Do you like characters who are smart, kooky, brave, friendly, or troubled? Do you like characters who are in situations like your own, or characters who deal with different things? Do you like exciting, challenging, silly, scary, or funny situations?

You may like certain genres. Do you know whether you like histories, mysteries, westerns, science fiction, or adventures?



BRAIN BUSTER



Once you find a book you like, you may want to read other books by the same author. Some of your favorite authors may write many books about the same character or characters, or a series of books in the same genre. Hank the Cowdog is an example of a series about the same character. Goosebumps is an example of a series in the same genre.

FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

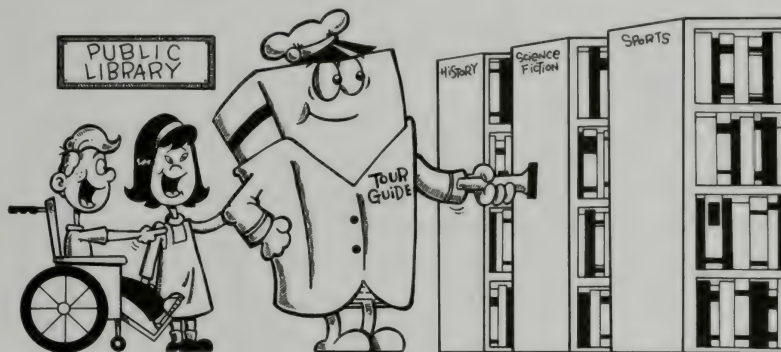
Don't forget to ask your friends about their favorite books. Ask them what they have read lately, too. You might just love to read some of them.

Once you find out more about what you like, you can find a book that has characters similar to you, a situation you have been through or are going through, or a topic you would like to learn more about.

WHERE CAN I FIND A BOOK?

There are plenty of places to look for books. The library is probably the first place you should look. Your school may have a library. Public libraries let you borrow books once you have qualified for a library card. Different libraries have different collections of books, and many libraries can borrow books from other libraries. That gives you access to a lot of books.

You can look for book titles in the library's card catalog. The card catalog is usually computerized, and lets you search for books by title, author, or subject. Looking under the Subject category can give you a lot of choices. Books in a library are assigned a call number, which is based on the Dewey Decimal Classification System (see pages 16–19).



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

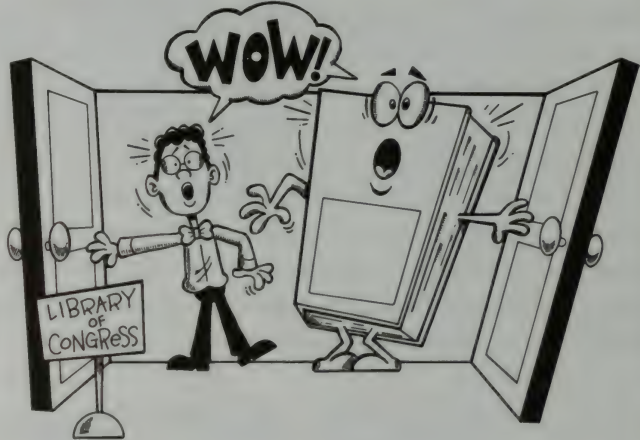
Most public libraries have a room or section devoted to children's books. The books in this area are marked with a J for "juvenile."

Many libraries have special reading lists for children, which can help you find certain kinds of books.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The U.S. government has created the biggest library in the world—the Library of Congress. It is located in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C., and was founded in 1800 when Congress purchased Thomas Jefferson's personal book collection. Here are more fun facts:

- The Library contains about 119 million items, including 18 million books, 2 million sound recordings, 2 million photographs, and 4 million maps. It continues to receive about 22,000 new items each day.
- The smallest book is *Old King Cole*, measuring $\frac{1}{25}$ by $\frac{1}{25}$ of an inch, about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. The pages must be turned with a needle.
- The largest book is *Birds of America*, about 40 inches tall.
- Half the books in the Library are in languages other than English.
- The Library houses the world's largest collection of comic books: 100,000 issues in all.



To learn more about the Library of Congress, log on to the Internet and go to www.loc.gov.

CHARTING THE WAY

The chart on the next three pages is based on the Dewey Decimal Classification System. (For fiction, go to the next section, "Finding Fiction.") Named after librarian and educator Melvil Dewey, the system groups subjects into 10 major categories. These categories are then divided into more specific groups. Dewey chose the 10 categories by imagining a person asking questions about the world. We've included similar questions here.

If you see a topic you're interested in, go to the children's section at the library and find the number on the shelf. Browse through the books until you find one you like. If you need help, ask a librarian.



J000

RJ030

RJ032

GENERAL WORKS

Encyclopedias

Guinness Book of World Records

J100

J133.1

J133.4

J133.5

J133.8

J154.6

PHILOSOPHY (Who am I?)

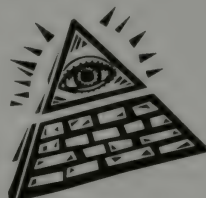
Ghosts

Astrology

Witchcraft

ESP

Dreams



J200

J220

J291

J296

RELIGION (How did I come to be?)

Bible Stories

Mythology

Judaism

J300

J353

J391

J394

J398

J398.4

J398.8

SOCIAL SCIENCES (Who is the person next to me?)

U.S. Government

Costumes

Holidays

Fairy Tales, Folklore, Fables

Monsters

Nursery Rhymes



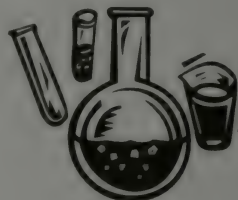
J400 LANGUAGES (How can I make that person understand me?)

- J419 Sign Language
- J423 Dictionaries
- J430 German
- J440 French
- J450 Italian
- J460 Spanish



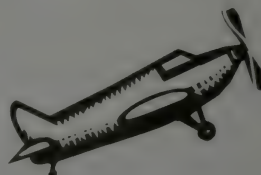
J500 SCIENCE (What makes things happen in the world around me?)

- J507 Science Experiments
- J510 Mathematics
- J523 Stars and Planets
- J551.2 Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- J551.5 Weather
- J568 Dinosaurs
- J574.5 Ecology
- J595.7 Insects
- J598.1 Reptiles
- J598.2 Birds
- J599.7 Horses



J600 TECHNOLOGY (How can I benefit from nature?)

- J608 Inventions
- J612 Human Body
- J623.8 Ships
- J625 Trains
- J629.13 Model Airplanes
- J629.2 Automobiles
- J629.45 Space Travel
- J636.1 Horses (raising of)
- J636.7 Dogs (raising of)
- J641.5 Cooking
- J652 Secret Codes



J700 FINE ARTS AND RECREATION (What can I do in my spare time?)

J743 Drawing
J745.5 Crafts
J770 Photography
J780 Music
J791.5 Puppetry
J792 Skits and Plays
J793.5 Magic
J793.8 Riddles
J796 Sports



J800 LITERATURE (What are the stories that express people's feelings and ideas?)

J811 American Poetry
J813 Fiction
J817 Humor

J900 GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (How can I record what people have done?)

J912 Maps and Atlases
J917.3 U.S. National Parks
J930 Ancient Worlds
J940 Europe
J950 Asia
J960 Africa
J970 North America
J980 South America



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

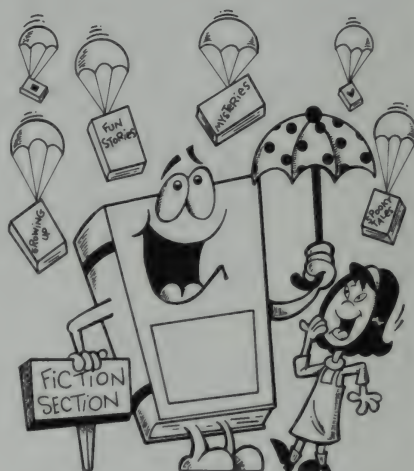
Bring pencil and paper to the library so that you can write down the locations of the books you are interested in after you look them up on the library's computer.

FINDING FICTION

Fiction is such a large group of books that it usually has its own section. In this section, the books are arranged alphabetically by the author's last name. The call number is J813.

You can ask the librarian to help you find what you're looking for. Tell the librarian what subjects you are interested in, and what kind of stories and characters you like. Some of the categories the librarian might look under are:

- Stories about growing up.
- Stories about families.
- Stories about challenges.
- Stories about change and loss.
- Stories about culture.



BOOKSTORES

Bookstores carry new books, used books, or both. Some stores specialize in certain subjects, such as movies and travel. To find a much wider variety of children's books, for example, you'd go to a children's bookstore. The books are organized by topic and

alphabetized by the author's last name. Walk around the store and read the labels on the shelves to see what topics interest you. Some bookstores have chairs or sofas where you can sit down and browse through a stack of books.



SURFING THE NET

If you have a computer and are online, you can shop for books on the Internet. Two popular Web sites are www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. You can see the titles and sometimes the covers, and some Web sites post descriptions of the books along with reviews written by people who have read the book.

The only thing you can't do online, of course, is hold and browse through the actual books themselves. But if you know what book you want, or you want to search for a book by a particular author or on a particular subject, you can do this online. You can then decide to order the book or try to find it at a bookstore or library. If you want to order a book, ask your parents for help.

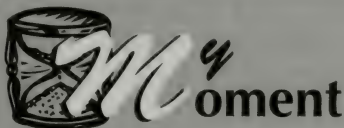
On the Internet, your local public library may have a site that lets you look at its online card catalog and tells you if a book is available. You also can do an online search for book reports using a search engine such as Yahoo!. One Web site you might want to check out is www.worldreading.org. It has lots of book reports by kids and lists of great books to read.



BRAIN BUSTER



Part of the fun of writing a book report is sharing your reading experience with others. Can you think of ways to do this? Look for places on the Internet to publish your book report. Your local newspaper also may publish kids' book reports. Check your favorite magazines, too, to see if they are looking for book reports to publish.



After you start reading a book, you may find that it just doesn't interest you after all. Try to think of why that is. Is it too hard to read? Is it too easy? Have you already read a story just like it?

Did it make sense to you? Talk with your parent or teacher and decide whether it'd be best to keep on reading the book or find another one.



Chapter 3

Diving In

You've chosen a book, and now you're ready to crack it open and dive in. To write a good book report, try to keep these things in mind while you're reading.

PLOT AND CHARACTERS

The plot is the action in a story. Basically, it is what happens in a story. In an exciting adventure novel, for example, it is what keeps you turning the pages.

In the plot, the hero or main character gets into a situation or goes on a journey. The main character usually comes face-to-face with a problem or challenge. He or she deals with the problem or tries to conquer the challenge, sometimes with the help of other characters. At the end, the hero learns something about himself or herself.

While you're reading, picture the characters and the settings in your mind. Does the plot make sense to you? Does it grab your attention, or do you find it a little boring?

Think about how the characters are described. Do you learn about them from the things they do and say? How many characters are there? How can you tell who the main character is? Is the story told from the main character's point of view? What do other characters in the story think of the main character? Do any of the characters change by the end of the story?

Think about the character's situation. Have you ever been in that situation or one like it? If you have, how did you feel and what did you do? Did you make the same choices as the character did in the story? Do you know someone else who has been in that situation?

If you have not been in such a situation yourself, imagine how you would feel and what you would do if you were. Did the character react like you imagined, or did the character do something entirely different? How do you feel about the character's choices? Did you learn something from reading the story?



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

As you read, write down the places where you didn't want to put the book down because the story was so exciting. If you are keeping a reading journal, you can use it for this. In your report, describe one of those places—but remember, don't tell how things turn out. You want to encourage your readers to get the book and find out for themselves.

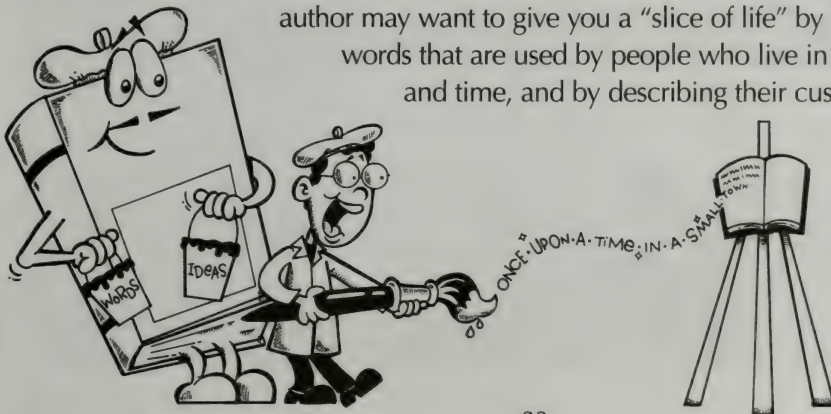
SETTING

When your book is set in a certain place and time, think about the way the author helps you to picture that place and time. Does the author use the characters in the story to tell you about the place and time? Are there things in the story you have never seen or heard of? Do you recognize any of the things the author describes? Do you know what time and place those things are from?

Sometimes an author will tell a fantastic story—one in which everything is completely made up. Many of the descriptions in such a story will be of imaginary things—things that do not exist. Do you feel that you understand those things? Do they make sense to you?

LANGUAGE

Like an artist, an author uses words to paint a picture in your mind. These words can bring back memories or make you feel a certain way. Sometimes an author may want to give you a “slice of life” by choosing special words that are used by people who live in a unique place and time, and by describing their customs and clothing.



How does the author describe the characters and setting? Do his or her words help bring the characters to life? Do you feel like they are sitting in the room with you? If the characters talk, or use dialogue, do you think what they say is realistic, or is it make-believe? Is it how you and your friends talk?

If you're reading nonfiction, is the author's writing clear? Do you understand what is being explained? Are you learning something new, or is it all stuff you already know?

ILLUSTRATIONS

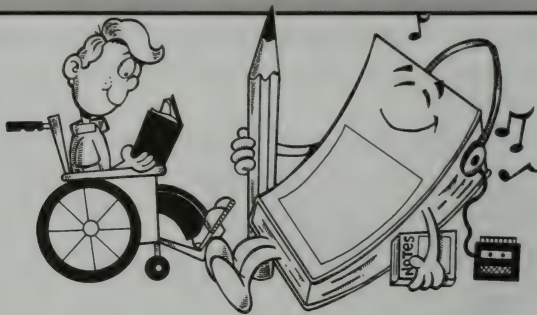
Illustrations, whether they are black and white, color, or photographs, help make a book come to life. In picture books and comic books, illustrations are as important as the words because they help tell the story. Photographs are interesting because they show real things and events.

If your book is made up of mostly pictures, think about what each one tells you. Do they put you in a certain mood? Do they help you understand the story or make things more clear to you? How different would the book be if it didn't have illustrations?

Don't worry if you can't keep all these things in mind at once—focus on one or two if you'd like. What's important is that you relax and enjoy the fun of escaping into a good book. So don't rush, and move at your own pace.

FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

Keep a pencil and notepad or scratch paper handy in case you want to jot down any notes about your thoughts while you're reading.



TEN QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR BOOK

Here are some questions that you and your friends probably would ask about a book. After you have finished reading, write down the answers to these questions. If you include the answer to at least one of these questions in your book report, your readers will be more interested in your book.

1. Is the book about a person like you?
2. What problems or challenges are in the book?
3. Is the book about something that is happening to you or someone you know?
4. Is the book about a place or time you like?
5. Is the book about your favorite pet or animal?
6. Does the book solve a mystery, or build up suspense until the breathtaking conclusion?
7. Is the book about something you like to do or make?
8. Is the book about a famous person who is important to you?
9. Is the book about something you are fascinated with?
10. Is the book an adventure story, a western, a fairy tale, a fable, a legend, or science fiction?



Combine other activities with your reading. If your book is about people in another time and place, try to make yourself a costume similar to theirs and wear it while you read. Or make some of the food you are reading about and eat it while you read. If the book is about a trip, get maps of the area and follow the characters' progress. And of course, if you are reading a scary or mysterious story, one of the best ways to dive into your story is to read it under your bedcovers with a flashlight!



Postcards to Your Pals

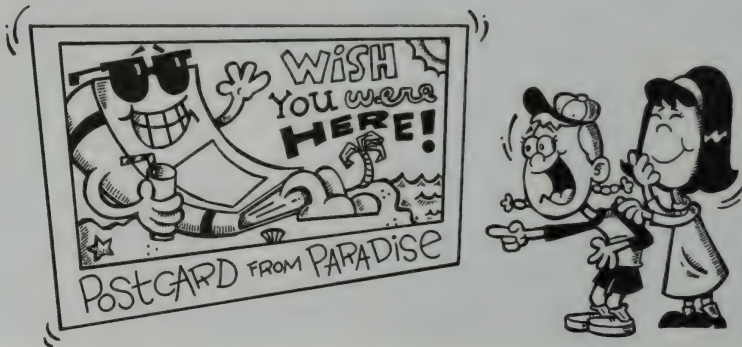
Now you've chosen and read your book. You have thought about how it was written and illustrated, what it tells you, and how you feel about it. It's time to create your first draft, or first version, of your book report. Write down your thoughts as you go through the following steps. Once you have done your draft, let it rest for a day or two, then go back and polish it. Your final report will amaze you!

A great book takes you somewhere amazing. It may be another time or place or completely imaginary. When you really like a book, you want to tell your friends about it. However, don't tell them everything about it. You want your friends to be able to enjoy the experience themselves. Just give them enough to "get the picture" of where the book took you, and let them know you wish they could go there, too. Think of your book report as a postcard to your pals.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

First, write down whether your story is fiction or nonfiction. Then list which genre it is if you are reporting on fiction, or what area of information the book covers if it is nonfiction, such as history, true-life adventure, or sports.

Just as a postcard does, you will want to give your friends a picture of the setting of your book. If your book is a story, describe the time and place your book takes you to. Describe what people wear and the kinds of tools or machinery or technology they use. Explain what the climate and land and the plants and animals are like. Some places and times are very strange and are fun to write about, but make sure you describe them clearly so that your readers will understand. Tell what season or time of day in which the story takes place if it is important to the story.



You could write something like this:

Outback Lessons by Valerie Jean Baker

Becky is an eight-year-old girl from the big city of London who moves with her family to the Australian Outback in 1885. Many things that Becky is used to, like cobblestone streets and big brick houses, do not exist in the Outback. Would you have trouble getting used to something so different?

If your book is not a story, it still may have a setting. Everything happens somewhere. For instance, if your book is about dinosaurs, you can describe the environment during the time they roamed the earth. Or, if your book is about race cars, you might describe a racetrack, an automobile factory, or a mechanic's garage.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

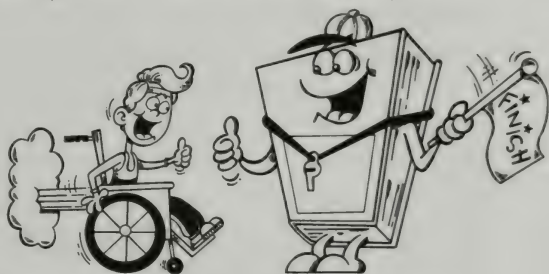
Next, tell who the people are in your book. Name the main characters and describe them. Tell their ages, what they look like, what they like to do, and how they feel. Do any of the characters have a problem to deal with? Explain what kinds of challenges they face. The characters may be real or imaginary, so be sure to explain which they are. Sometimes the characters are not human. In that case, describe them and explain what kinds of creatures they are.

Write whether the characters learned something important by the end. Sometimes you may discover something about yourself. Write down what you learned from reading the book.

THE THING IS...

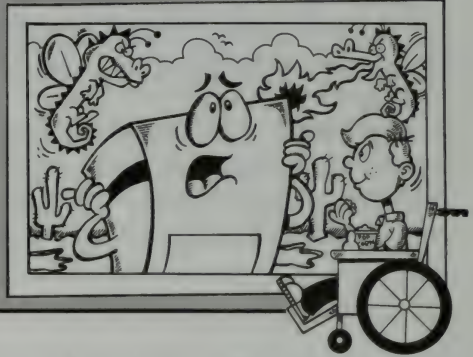
Your book may be about things people do or make, or it may deal more with things than with people. When the book is about a thing, think of that thing as a character and describe it. If it is something to eat, what does it look like, feel like, or taste like? If it is an invention, what does it do or what is it used for? Who is it important to? What is it made of? If you are reading a book on the Olympics, is it something that could or did change the world?

Does the book provide facts about the thing? These facts can be very helpful to people who are interested in that particular thing. Those people would like to



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

Start out your book report as though you are describing the opening scene of a movie. For example, you could begin like this: "The sky is red and smoky. Cactuses grow big as trees. A footprint the size of a car is filled with water. Dragonflies 12 feet long are flying above it."



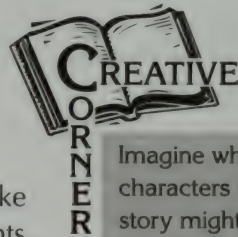
know what they can learn from the book. A taste of the information given in the book is just what they are looking for. It will help them decide whether they would like to read the book.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

If you are writing about a story, describe the main points of action that lead to the problem or challenge in the story, but do not tell how it ends. Like a postcard, you want to highlight only the main events.

Were the illustrations helpful? Did they make the magic trick, recipe, or science experiment easier to follow? Did they help explain the concept, like the solar system or what causes an earthquake? Did they bring the characters in your story to life? Did they make you laugh or frighten you?

You may have been surprised by the ending of your book. Perhaps it scared you or made you laugh. You may have thought your book was thrilling and it kept you reading excitedly page after page. Some books, such as mysteries, will lead you on by revealing clues. You may have guessed the ending before you got to it.



Imagine what the characters in your story might do. Make a list of their personality traits: Are they funny, mean, caring, friendly, smart? Then think of situations that did not happen in the book. Now imagine each character in those situations. What do you think each character would do?

CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

Now you know the basic ingredients to an interesting book report:

- The name of the book and its author.
- Where and when the book's action takes place.
- Who or what the book is about.
- What is about to happen.
- What can be learned from the book.

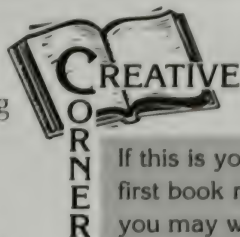
It's also important to remember what NOT to tell. Just as people like to hear about a good movie but don't want to know how it ends, people love to hear about a good book but don't want to know every single thing about it. They like to read it for themselves. Telling less makes your job easier, too.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Think of what you like best about your book. Let that be the central idea, or theme, of your book report. Use your answers to the questions in this chapter and your notes from the questions in Chapter 3 to give your audience an idea of the book. Just as those questions helped you get to know your book, your answers can help your audience understand it, too.

Suppose you read a book about a girl who moves to the prairie with her family. You like the way the main character adjusted to her new home. Your theme could be adjusting to a big move.

Now your report needs a title. You can use the title of the book, or you can come up with a title that has to do with your theme. If you use the title of the book, underline it (if you are writing it out by hand) or put it in italics (if you are working on a computer). If you make up your own title, remember to include the book's title and the author's name in your report.



If this is your very first book report, you may want to write a short report like the samples in this book, or you can make a drawing or some kind of craft. If you want to write a longer report, include more information. If you read a book on automobiles, you can tell about the history of the automobile or about different types of automobiles.



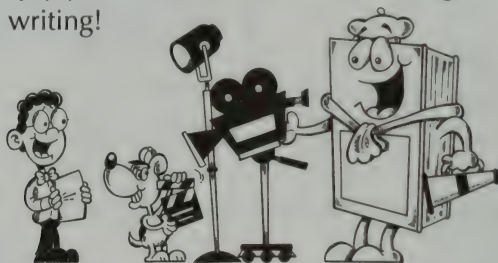
IT'S A WRAP!

Conclude your book report by explaining what you liked about it, or what you didn't care for. You could write something like this:

I really liked the way the book showed what schools were like in the Outback, away from big cities. It was interesting to see what her first day at school was like. It seemed like it was too much of a change for Becky, and I wondered if she was going to like her new school. What she finally decided surprised me—read the book and see what you think!

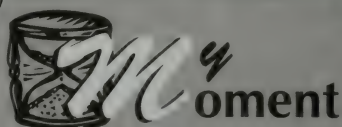
In the next chapter, you'll find book report examples on different kinds of books. We've also included lists of books on a variety of topics to help you choose a book to read.

Enjoy your new adventures in reading and writing!



FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

If you are going to read your book report out loud to your class, practice in front of your family or friends first. Or, if your family has a videocamera, videotape yourself giving your report. Play back the tape. Are you standing up straight? Are you reading too fast or too quietly?



It's OK to write a report on a book you didn't like. Maybe you found the topic boring or hard to understand, or perhaps the book just wasn't as funny as you thought it would be, or maybe you decided you didn't like one of the characters. Go ahead and write up your report, telling what the book is about, and at the end describe what you didn't like about it.

What's the Story?

Some stories are true, and some are imaginary. Remember that fiction is stories that are completely made up. True stories are called nonfiction. Would you like to learn how to make or do things, or some interesting facts about the real world? Then explore books on science, crafts, sports, trivia, or model airplanes.

There are many books covering many different topics and themes. There are topics within topics, too. To help you figure out what you'd like to read, we've provided descriptions of various topics, followed by a sample book report that might be written on each.

MIRROR, MIRROR

It's fun to read a story that has a character in it who is just like you, with the same feelings, hopes, fears, and dreams. There are all kinds of stories about kids growing up. Some describe what it's like to be the middle sister, or the older brother, or an only child. Some are about the first day of school, moving to a new place, making friends, going on a vacation, or visiting a relative.

Sometimes life may seem difficult. There are many stories about kids who go through the same things and feel the same way you do. These stories may suggest a way to solve your own situation that you had not thought of. They also can make you laugh and feel better.

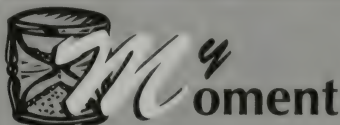


Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great by Judy Blume

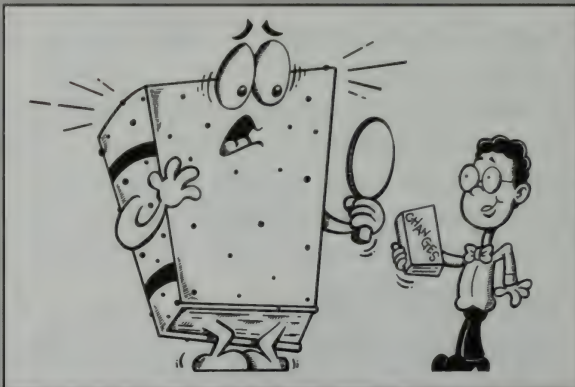
Sheila is about to go on summer vacation with her family, but there are two big problems. One, she doesn't like the water, and her parents want her to learn how to swim. Two, she is afraid of dogs, and she has to baby-sit the world's worst one! Will Sheila realize that sometimes it's OK to be afraid? You will have to read the book and find out.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

The Acorn People by Ron Jones
Boy-Crazy Stacey by Ann M. Martin (The Baby-Sitters Club series)
Chocolate Fever by Robert Kimmel Smith
Crazy Lady! by Jane Leslie Conly
Forever by Judy Blume
Freak the Mighty by W. Rodman Philbrick
A Gift for Tia Rosa by Karen T. Taha
How Lazy Can You Get? by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
How to Live Forever by Colin Thompson
Just One Friend by Lynn Hall
Lizzie Lies a Lot by Elizabeth Levy
Masks by Gloria Hatrick
Peeling the Onion by Wendy Orr
Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary
Sixth Grade Can Really Kill You by Barthe DeClements
Tomboy by Norma Klein
Touchdown by Richard A. Steel
Why I'm Afraid of Bees by R. L. Stine



A story can help you adjust to all sorts of changes in your world. If you are trying to deal with a new event in your life, read a book that is about a similar situation. After you finish, talk about it with a parent or friend. Reading about how someone else deals with the situation can help you learn how to cope and not feel isolated.

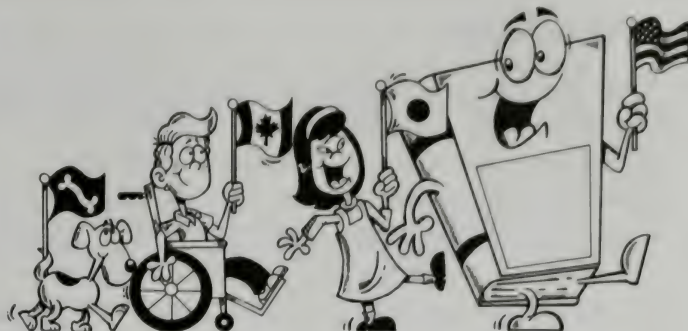


MULTICULTURAL MIX

Books can teach you a lot about growing up in different cultures. There are people from many different cultures living in the United States as well as all over the world.

Many of these kids face the same choices and situations

you do. Even though your own culture may be different, you probably already know that you have a lot in common with kids from other cultures. And even if you haven't had the same experiences other kids have had, you can learn to appreciate them by reading stories about them.



A Bosnian Family by Robin Landew Silverman

Many people have heard of Bosnia and what has happened there, but not everyone knows what it is like to live there. This book tells about Velma and her family's struggle in their country during the war. It makes you stop and think about all the good things you have in life. It also helps you understand why families like Velma's want to come to the United States to live.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Abuela's Weave by Omar S. Castaneda

Ajeemah and His Son by James Berry

Alyosha's Apple: A Tale of Old Russia by Alvin Alexsi Currier

A Family from Vietnam by Simon Scoones

Family Pictures: Cuadros de Familia by Carmen Lomas Garza

Gittel's Hands by Erica Silverman

How My Family Lives in America by Susan Kuklin

The Island-below-the Star by James Rumford

Jamaica and Brianna by Juanita Havill

The Most Beautiful Place in the World by Ann Cameron

Quinnie Blue by Dinah Johnson

Sachiko Means Happiness by Kimiko Sakai

AWESOME!

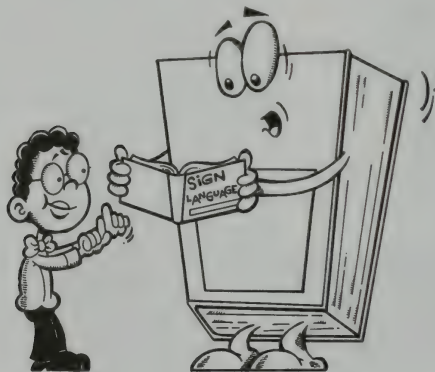
Have you ever known someone who was facing a big challenge—one you don't have to deal with? Or perhaps you are facing a challenge of your own. Reading can help you see the world and that challenge in a new way.

Check out a story about a person who has a physical challenge. You can read about someone who has to use a wheelchair, or who finds out she has to wear a brace because she has scoliosis, or a curved spine. Or choose a book about someone who accomplishes her goal all on her own. Weren't you impressed by how the people in these stories met their challenges?

These stories can be very inspiring. They show us brave and clever people who teach us that almost anything is possible in life.

Words in Our Hands by Ada B. Litchfield

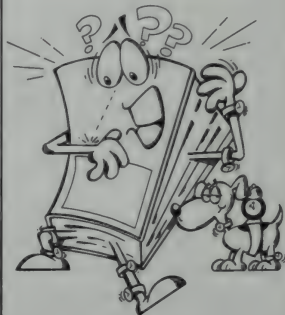
Nine-year-old Michael knows sign language because his parents are deaf. His family is just like any other family—they go to church, attend programs at school, and drive to the grocery store or the bank to do errands. Everything is fine until Michael's father tells



BRAIN BUSTER



Change can be hard to get used to. If you always wear a watch on the same arm, try wearing it on your other arm. For the next few days, count how many times you look at the wrong wrist to check the time. Are you surprised? Change also can be fun. Think about why you like to wear different clothes each day, or change your hairstyle from time to time.



the family that they must move to a new city. What will it be like to be strangers in a new town? Will people stare at Michael's mom and dad and make fun of them? Read this book to find out what Michael's family does to make new friends in a new place.



SUGGESTED READING LIST



Abby's Twin by Ann M. Martin (The Baby-Sitters Club series)
Bring Me a Memory by Rose Blue
Buddy, the First Seeing Eye Dog by Eva Moore
Bye, Mis' Lela by Dorothy Carter
Eddie's Blue Winged Dragon by C. S. Adler
First Star I See by Jaye Andras Caffrey
Half the Battle by Lynn Hall
The Hard Life of Seymour E. Newton by Ann Bixby Herold
Josh: A Boy with Dyslexia by Caroline Janover
Mandy Sue Day by Roberta Karim
Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd by Mame Farrell
The Safe Place by Tehila Peterseil
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Stranded by Ben Mikaelson
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
We All Fall Down by Robert Cormier
What Do You Mean I Have a Learning Disability? by Kathleen M. Dwyer
The Winner by Peg Kehret

FIRST-TIMER'S TIP!

When you find a book you've been looking for, look at the books on the shelves next to it, too. You might find an even more interesting one to read instead!

TIME WARP

Have you ever wished you could travel backward or forward in time? What was life like in ancient times, and what might it be like in the far-off future? Take a trip by reading a book set in another era. Some stories whisk you into the future.

Will people look the same? Will they live underground or in outer space? In *A Wrinkle in Time*, a young girl travels through

space in search of her father. Science fiction writers come up with stories that explore new and sometimes weird creations—like a recipe for freckle juice!

Other genres also help you move through time. Histories and biographies tell true stories about life in a certain time and place. Historical fiction tells made-up stories set in the actual past, such as the American Colonial days. Or pick up a western if you want to get a feel of what life was like in the Wild West.



Pepi and the Secret Names by Jill Paton Walsh

What would you do to help your father? Pepi, a little boy living in ancient Egypt, goes to a lot of trouble to help his father paint a wonderful tomb for Prince Dhutmose. Pepi asks real animals to go to the tomb and let his father paint their pictures. All goes well until the animals become more and more ferocious. Will Pepi's father be able to paint, and will the prince be pleased? Read this story and find out what life in ancient Egypt was like and what happens in the tomb.



SUGGESTED READING LIST

Addie Across the Prairie by Laurie Lawlor
Aliens for Dinner by Stephanie Spinner
Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad by Marlene Targ Brill
The Android by Katherine A. Applegate (Animorphs series)
The Bone Wars by Kathryn Lasky
Buffalo Before Breakfast by Mary Pope Osborne
Caution: Aliens at Work by R. L. Stine (Ghosts of Fear Street series)
The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh
Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
The Girl Who Struck Out Babe Ruth by Jean L. S. Patrick
Gremlins Don't Chew Bubble Gum by Debbie Dadey
Hank the Cowdog and Monkey Business by John R. Erickson
Jumping the Broom by Courtney C. Wright
The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland
Monsters in Cyberspace by Dian Curtis Regan
Pistol by Adrienne Richard
The Princess in the Pigpen by Jane Resh Thomas
Smoky the Cowhorse by Will James
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
Zombie Surf Commandos from Mars! by Tony Abbott

GLOBAL PASSPORT

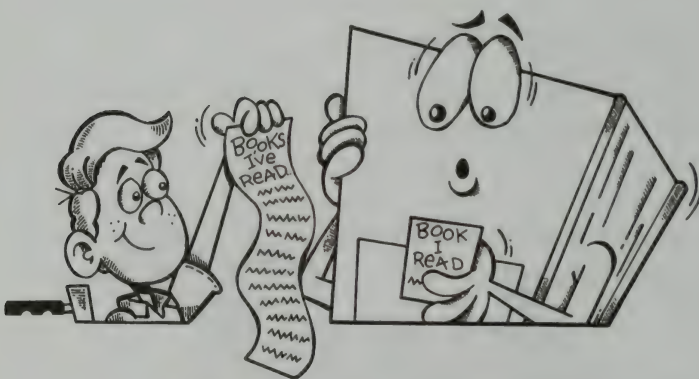
What can take you around the world? A book can. Stories about people living in other places are your ticket to world travel, and you don't even have to get out of your chair. You can learn about the customs and experiences of people all over the globe by reading biographies and histories about real people and places.



Make-believe stories set in real places and real times also can bring to life the traditions, costumes, and languages of other cultures. Let a book show you what life is like anywhere from Alaska to Zimbabwe!

Nine for California by Sonia Levitin

Pa goes to California to look for gold. He tells Ma and the kids to come to California, too, and they get on a stagecoach. The ride from Missouri to California is very long and bumpy, and sometimes dangerous. Luckily, Ma has brought along her special bag of tricks. What is inside the bag? Will Ma and the kids get to California safely? Read the book for the answers!



BRAIN BUSTER



Sometimes, what is new for you is not new for someone else. Make a list of the books you have read about people who have different backgrounds and experiences than you. Ask some of your friends to do the same. Compare the lists. Did any of your friends read about someone who was different from them but similar to you? Did one of your friends have the same experience that a character in your book had?



M^yoment

Learn to understand and respect others by choosing a book that describes people who are different from you in age, gender, time, culture, and experience.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Leo and Diane Dillon
Boom Town by Sonia Levitin
Chibi: A True Story from Japan by Barbara Brenner and Julia Takaya
Children of the Dust Bowl by Jerry Stanley
A Cricket in Times Square by George Selden
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolan
Ellen and the Queen by Gillian Avery
The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot
by Alice and Martin Provensen
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Knights of the Kitchen Table by Jon Scieszka
Life in the Iron Age by Peter J. Reynolds
The Loyal Cat by Lensey Namioka
Sara Crewe by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Viking Adventure by Clyde Bulla
The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze by Elizabeth Lewis

GET A CLUE!

In a mystery, something strange happens that needs to be figured out or solved. The main character may be a detective like Encyclopedia Brown, or just an ordinary person or even an animal. This character searches for clues and tries to



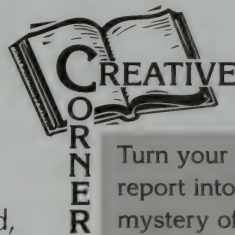
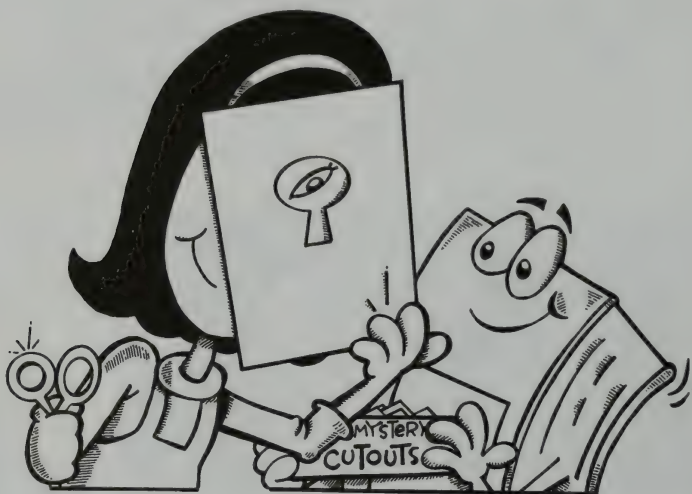
find out the answer. Mysteries are popular because readers like to try to solve the mystery before the main character does. As you read, follow the clues and play detective yourself.

Suspense stories are a lot like mysteries. These stories keep you on the edge of your seat as you read, because you never know what is going to happen next. The plots of suspense stories often have surprising twists and turns that keep you guessing, and may even have an ending that will shock you!

Alfred Hitchcock's

Solve-Them-Yourself Mysteries

Do you notice details? Are you a good problem solver? If you are observant and like to think things through logically, you could make a good detective. Put yourself to the test with Alfred Hitchcock's Solve-Them-Yourself Mysteries. Five stories present situations complete with clues for you to solve the mystery. At the end of each, Alfred Hitchcock explains the solution.



Turn your book report into a mystery of its own to solve. On construction paper, draw outlines of items that the main characters wear: a baseball cap, tennis shoes, a necklace, a backpack, and so forth. Cut these out, then write the characters' names and descriptions on them. Now draw outlines of the things that served as clues. Cut these out, then write on them the actions or events that produced the clues. In class, act out the story using the cutouts. Stop just before the solution to the mystery is revealed. Ask the class if anyone has figured out the answer. Then tell them to read the story themselves to see if they are right.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Arthur and the Crunch Cereal Contest by Marc Tolon Brown
The Birthday Wish Mystery by Faye Couch Reeves
Bunnicula by Deborah and James Howe
The Case of the Stinky Science Project by James Preller
The Case of the Visiting Vampire by Drew Stevenson
The Deadly Dungeon by Ron Roy (A to Z Mysteries series)
The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Encyclopedia Brown: Boy Detective by Donald J. Sobol
The Great Corgiville Kidnapping by Tasha Tudor
Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh
How Can I Be a Detective If I Have to Baby-sit? by Linda Bailey
The Karate Class Mystery by Elizabeth Levy (Invisible Inc. series)
Lucky Stars by David A. Adler (Houdini Club Magical Mystery series)
Marty Frye, Private Eye by Janet Tashjian
Wrapped in a Riddle by Sharon E. Heisel

FUN AND FANTASY

What could be more fun than reading about dragons and fairies, little people and magic rings? Fantasies are stories that are entirely make-believe, filled with fantastic people, places, and things. Jump down the rabbit hole with Alice, or enter the tiny world of the Borrowers. These tales can transport you to strange, beautiful, and wondrous lands where magical, unbelievable things happen.



***The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster**

Milo is as bored as you can get and always wishes he were somewhere else. He thinks learning is a big waste of time. That is, until he drives through the Phantom Tollbooth and enters a strange world where he has a series of very odd adventures. For example, Milo "jumps" to the island of Conclusions (get it?). He learns there are plenty of things to keep him busy after all.

 SUGGESTED READING LIST

The Adventures of Captain Underpants

by Dav Pilkey

Afternoon of the Elves by Janet Taylor Lisle

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Backyard Dragon by Betsy Stermann

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

The Dragon that Ate Summer by Brenda Seabrooke

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

by J. K. Rowling

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

by C. S. Lewis

Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

The Popcorn Dragon by Jane Thayer

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly

Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka

Tales from Watership Down by Richard Adams

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams Bianco



BRAIN BUSTER



Fairy tales and folk tales are a popular fantasy genre. Many have been made into popular movies and plays you probably have seen, such as *The Swan Princess* and *Aladdin*. These stories come from cultures all over the world. Often the same story is told in different ways in different countries. One famous collection of stories is *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. How many stories, movies, or cartoons do you know of that tell a famous tale in a new way?

NAME YOUR ADVENTURE

Like suspense, adventure stories also can keep you on the edge of your seat. In an adventure story, the main character or characters take

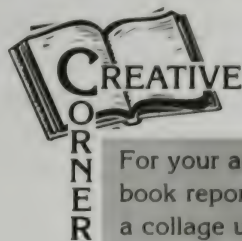


an exciting journey or do something spectacular. Many of these stories involve physical challenges like climbing Mount Everest or sailing around the world. Would you like to attempt these amazing feats yourself and see the wildest parts of the world someday? Break open an adventure story and get a taste!

My Side of the Mountain

by Jean Craighead George

Are you brave enough to leave home and live in a forest for a whole year by yourself? Would you know how to survive? Sam runs away to his grandfather's land in the Catskill Mountains with only a penknife, a ball of cord, an ax, 40 dollars, and some flint and steel. With the help of a few friends he meets along the way and the information he remembers from reading books, Sam learns the true meaning of independence. Grab this book and hold on tight as you find out how he survives.



For your adventure book report, create a collage using picture postcards and a map. Write the main plot points on the postcards. Pin them to the locations on the map where the events occur. Pin a blank index card on the point where the climax takes place. Cut pictures out of old magazines that illustrate the characters' personalities, what they did, and anything else that happens in the book. Decorate your collage with them. Ask the class to guess whether the characters make it to their goal.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Adventure on Klickitat Island

by Hilary Horder Hippely

Altoona Baboona by Janie Bynum

Baseball Camp on the Planet of the Eyeballs

by Susan Schade

Big Jim and the White-Legged Moose

by Jim Arnosky

Coverup by Jay Bennett

My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen

Smuggler's Island by Avi

Toliver's Secret by Esther Wood Brady

Within Reach: My Everest Story by Mark Pfetzer
and Jack Galvin

Y2K-9: The Dog Who Saved the World

by Todd Strasser

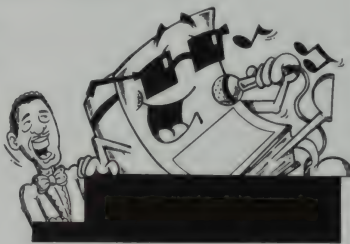
TRUE LIFE

Biographies are the life stories of real people, past or present. A biography is someone's life story, written by someone else. An autobiography is a life story of a real person, written by that same person. Frances T. Humphreville's book on Harriet Tubman is an example of a biography. Biographies are fascinating to read because they tell us about events that really happened. Choose a biography if you are curious about people who were a part of history.

Duke Ellington by Andrea Davis Pinkney

The great jazz piano player

Duke Ellington didn't start out wanting to play the piano. He wanted to play baseball instead. This biography tells how Duke was inspired by ragtime



music to play the piano again. Only this time, he did it his way. Read how Duke wrote music and played it with his special band on his rise to fame.



BRAIN BUSTER



Write your own life story, or autobiography. Think back as far as you can and start with your earliest memories. Ask your parents to give you some of the details of your life when you were a baby.

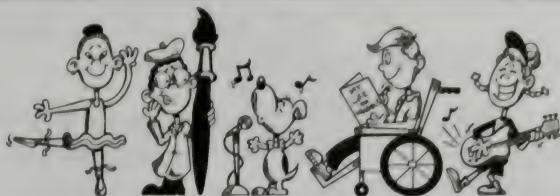


SUGGESTED READING LIST



Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution by Natalie Bober
All by Herself: 14 Girls Who Made a Difference by Ann Whitford Paul
Babe Didrikson Zaharias: All-Around Athlete by Jane Sutcliffe
Benito Juarez: President of Mexico by Frank de Varona
Franklin Delano Roosevelt by Regina Zimmerman Kelly
Geronimo: Apache Freedom Fighter by Spring Hermann
Harriet Tubman: Flame of Freedom by Frances T. Humphreville
Juliette Gordon Low: America's First Girl Scout by Kathleen Kudlinski
Michael Jordan by Phil Berger
P. T. Barnum: The World's Greatest Showman by Alice Fleming
Paul Revere: Boston Patriot by Augusta Stevenson

EXPRESS YOURSELF!



Do you like to dance, paint, draw, sing, act, write, or play an instrument? Then you are an artist. There are performance arts like dance, theater, and music, and fine arts such as painting or sculpture, to name just a few. Or maybe you want to be a newspaper reporter or work in the movies someday. Maybe you want to learn how to design houses and buildings, like an architect does. Books can tell you more about how to make art, or about art and artists around the world. Many books have beautiful pictures of famous works of art.

The Children's Book of Painting by Lothar Kampmann

Do you want to learn how to paint? In this book, two puppets, Alexander and Katinka, love to paint and paint and paint. No wall, no paper is safe from them. They can teach you 27 easy painting techniques as you follow their story and discover how to print with a brush and even a potato, how to mix colors, and how to paint rags, fingers, or your whole hand.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

The Best Book of the Ballet by Angela Wilkes

Can You Spot the Leopard? African Masks by Christine Stelzig and Fiona Elliot

Cartooning for Kids by Carol Lea Benjamin

Deadline! From News to Newspaper by Gail Gibbons

Eyewitness Readers: Movie Magic by Anne Cottringer

How a House Is Built by Gail Gibbons

My First Design Book by Lone Morton

My First Music Book by Helen Drew

Play with Paint by Sara Lynn

Putting on a Play: The Young Playwright's Guide to Scripting, Directing, and Performing by Nancy Bentley et al.

A Short Walk Around the Pyramids and Through the World of Art by Philip M. Isaacson

The Story of the Incredible Orchestra by Bruce Koscielniak

Talking with Artists, compiled and edited by Pat Cummings

The Young Author's Do-It-Yourself Book: How to Write, Illustrate, and Produce Your Own Book by Donna Guthrie et al.

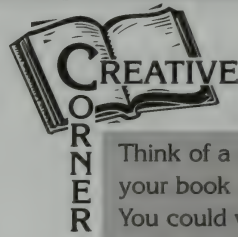
WHAT'S COOKING?

Do you like to cook? Then cookbooks are the thing for you. Many cookbooks have all kinds of fun recipes to try, and some of them even tell you fascinating facts about food. Some have recipes with unusual or downright weird ingredients. Are you more interested in how certain foods came to be? Some books focus on how different foods are prepared around the world, or during another time in history. Some talk about the history of a certain food, such as ice cream.

Gruesome Grub and Disgusting Dishes

by Susan Martineau

Maybe you really don't like to cook. Maybe ordinary food is just too boring. What if you could make tasty lunches, savory snacks, and delicious desserts that would gross out even your little brother? Try the creepy recipes in this book. They are guaranteed to gag, but will fill you up with the recommended daily requirement of fascinatingly foul fun.



Think of a theme for your book report. You could write your report like a recipe. It could go something like this: Take five cookie recipes by a famous baker, add a cup of unusual ingredients, throw in a dash of humor, mix in careful directions, and read. Then you will have one big serving of *Crazy Cookies for Cold Afternoons*.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Eat Your Words: A Fascinating Look at the Language of Food

by Charlotte Foltz Jones

The Fun of Cooking by Jill Kremenz

The Great Banana Cookbook by Eva Moore

Hasty Pudding, Johnnycakes, and Other

Good Stuff: Cooking in Colonial America
by Loretta Frances Ichord

I Love Popcorn by Carolyn Vosburg Hall

The Kids' 50-State Cookbook by Aileen Paul

The Peanut Butter Cookbook for Kids by Judy Ralph and Ray Gompf

Pickle in the Middle and Other Easy Snacks by Frances Zweifel

Scoop After Scoop: A History of Ice Cream by Stephen Krensky

Where Food Comes From by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

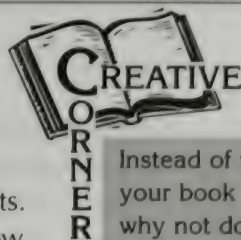


GETTING CRAFTY

If you like to put together models, crochet, or make things that you can wear, hang on a wall, or use in some way, you might be interested in a book on crafts. These books give you step-by-step instructions on how to make decorations, gifts, toys, and all sorts of cool things, including where to find the materials you'll need and tips on making your project even better.

Addy's Craft Book

In 1864, on many slave plantations in the South, girls made many different crafts to use and to play with, like hooked rugs and shadow puppets. You can, too, with Addy's Craft Book from the American Girls Collection. The book is full of historical facts and step-by-step instructions. It gives you a look at crafts from the past by showing how you can make them today.



Instead of writing your book report, why not do it in the form of a mobile or collage? Write your ideas and thoughts on colored paper, or cut out pictures from magazines that illustrate your ideas. Then, cut the paper into different shapes and hang them in a mobile or paste them into a collage. Or, if your book is about making something, such as paper airplanes, write out your thoughts on several sheets of paper. In class, read each one aloud, fold them up into different airplanes, and let them fly!

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Bats, Butterflies and Bugs: A Book of Action Toys
by S. Adams Sullivan

Busy Hands: Arts and Crafts for Children
by Denise Stevens

Crafts for Kids Who Are Wild About Dinosaurs
by Kathy Ross

50 Nifty Super Crafts to Make with Things Around the House by Cambria Cohen

Gifts to Make for Your Favorite Grownup by Kathy Ross

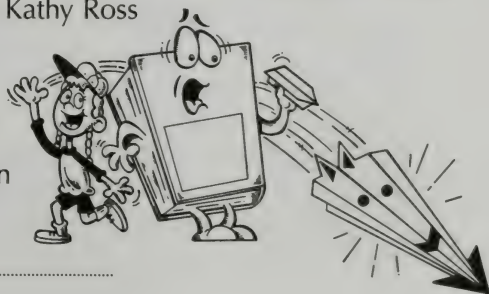
The Kids' Multicultural Art Book
by Alexandra M. Terzian

Look What I Did with a Leaf
by Morteza E. Sohi

The Paper Airplane Book by Seymour Simon

Puppets by Helen and Peter McNiven

60 Super Simple Crafts by Holly Hebert



TO YOUR HEALTH

Good health is important to everyone. And books on health are not as boring as you may think. There are all sorts of fun facts to learn about the human body that you can share with your friends and family. For example, did you know that it takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown?

Some books give tips on how to eat well and exercise the right way. You also can learn about what kinds of changes your body will go through as you grow up. You can find out what it's like to be a nurse or doctor, and that a visit to the hospital isn't as scary as you think it may be.

Taryn Goes to the Dentist by Jill Krementz

What's worse than going to the dentist? Not going to the dentist. Taryn learns what the dentist is going to do to keep her teeth and gums healthy, and what Taryn herself needs to do to keep her smile bright. This is a good book to read if you have never been to the dentist.



SUGGESTED READING LIST



Andrew's Loose Tooth by Robert N. Munsch

David's Story: A Book About Surgery by Benjamin Brink

A Day in the Life of an Emergency Room Nurse by Margot Witty

Dear Daisy, Get Well Soon by Maggie Smith

Everybody Has a Bellybutton by Laurence Pringle

My Five Senses by Alik

When I See My Doctor... by Susan Kuklin

Why Don't Haircuts Hurt? Questions and Answers About the Human Body
by Melvin and Gilda Berger

You Can't Make a Move Without Your Muscles by Paul Showers

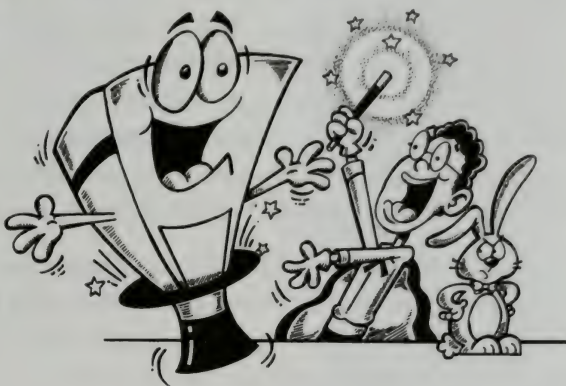
You Can't Sneeze with Your Eyes Open and Other Freaky Facts About the Human Body by Barbara Seuling

HOCUS POCUS

Do you want to learn how to become a master magician like the ones you see on television? Or are you already an expert who just wants to add to your bag of tricks? Amaze your friends and family with mind-boggling magic tricks you can learn from a variety of books. These books show you what supplies and materials you need and how to perform tricks using everything from cards and coins to scarves and even science! Rabbit not included.

60 Super Simple Magic Tricks by Shawn McMaster

Performing magic looks impossible when you watch magicians do it. But guess what? It's not. With this book, you can learn how to perform 60 different tricks like a pro. You find out how to make simple props, how to hide objects in your hands, and how to keep your audience from figuring out just how you do it. All it takes is practice and the tips in this book.



SUGGESTED READING LIST

Amazing Coin Tricks by Kirk Charles
52 Cool Tricks for Kids by Lynn Gordon
Illusions Illustrated: A Professional Magic Show for Young Performers
by James W. Baker
Let's Make Magic by Jon Day
Magic Fun by the editors of *OWL* and *Chickadee* Magazines
Magic Secrets by Rose Wyler and Gerald Ames
The Magic Show by Bob Friedhoffer
My First Magic Book by Laurence Leyton
Shazam! Simple Science Magic by Laurence B. White Jr. and Ray Broekel
Spooky Tricks by Rose Wyler and Gerald Ames
World's Best Coin Tricks by Bob Longe

BACK TO NATURE

If you're a nature lover, you're fascinated by the natural world: plants, animals, birds, insects, rocks, the ocean, the mountains, the desert. Nature books explore the way things work in the world outside of human creation. You may want to learn more about how certain animals live, or what kinds of fish live deep down on the ocean floor. Maybe you like to collect seashells or leaves, or you love to study sharks. Maybe you're interested in learning more about natural events, such as volcanoes or earthquakes. If you like a sense of adventure with your nature reading, a book on mountain climbing may be just what you're looking for.

Houses from the Sea by Alice E. Goudey
If you love collecting seashells, then this is the book for you. It is the story of a brother and sister walking along a beach and the lovely seashells they find. Enjoy the beautiful pictures and descriptions of what they found washed up on the shore, from moon shells to angel wings.



M^yoment

As you read about nature, you may become interested in learning how you can help protect the environment and our natural resources. Perhaps you would like to join an organization that works to study and preserve nature, such as the National Audubon Society or the Sierra Club. Ask a parent to help you look into joining such an organization. Or maybe you'd like to help set up a recycling or cleanup project at home or at school.



SUGGESTED READING LIST



Animal Tracks and Traces by Kathleen V. Kudlinski
The Best Way to See a Shark by Allan Fowler
Closer Look at Volcanoes by Jen Green
Exploring the Seashore by William H. Amos
Have You Seen Bugs? by Joanne Oppenheim
Hidden Inside by Kim Taylor
Let's Go Rock Collecting by Roma Gans
The Science Book of Things that Grow by Neil Ardley
What Is that Alligator Saying? by Ruth Belov Gross
Why Do Leaves Change Color? by Betsy Maestro

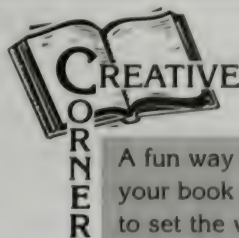


HOW THINGS WORK

Ever wonder what the world is made of and how it works? If you're interested in famous inventions, the stars and the planets, how forecasters predict the weather, or how magnets work, pick up a book on science. You can even learn how to create and test your own scientific theories.

Science is a very broad category that includes biology (the study of life), astronomy (the study of outer space), geology (the study of rocks), mathematics, entomology (the study of insects), and anthropology (the study of human beings). When science is used to create things, such as computers, it is called technology. Browse through the books on the science shelf for a topic you think you'd like to learn more about.

KidSource: Science Fair Handbook by Danna Voth
Do science fairs make you nervous? Learn how to make them fun with this handbook. You'll find out about the scientific method and how to create your own original science experiments. From research to reporting, all the steps to completing a successful science fair project are explained, along with sample projects to try.



A fun way to give your book report is to set the words to a song everyone knows, like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." A report on a book about the future could be sung like this (to the tune of "Old MacDonald"):
"Superhumans / by Simon Beecroft / tells about the future. / There will be decoded genes / and cloned beings / and nanomachines for sure."



SUGGESTED READING LIST



The Big Dipper and You by E. C. Krupp

Can You Find a Planet? by Sidney Rosen

Experiment with Light by Ray Broekel

Eyewitness Books: Invention by Lionel Bender

Sounds All Around by Wendy Pfeffer

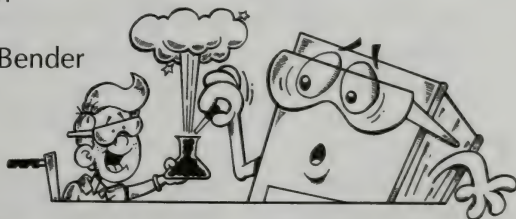
3D 2D 1D by David A. Adler

The Universe by Seymour Simon

Weather Forecasting by Gail Gibbons

Why Does It Rain? by Marian B. Jacobs

Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations by Jacqueline Mitton



HEY, SPORTS FANS

There are all kinds of books on all kinds of sports. From baseball and soccer to gymnastics, volleyball, rock climbing, and even the Olympic Games, you'll find it all in the sports section. You can read about your favorite teams or your favorite player. You can get pointers on how to improve your own skills, whether you love football, skating, swimming, or any other sport. Or you can find out the history of your favorite sport and how it was invented.

Shaquille O'Neal: Center of Attention

by Brad Townsend

People naturally look up to seven-foot, one-inch Shaquille O'Neal. Besides being so tall, Shaquille is also a leader. His parents taught him to respect others, and about the importance of making and living by his own decisions. This maturity has led him to use his talent and skills to help others. But Shaquille also has a fun-loving side and likes to make people laugh. Get to know Shaquille better when you read about his challenges, disappointments, victories—and some of his pranks and practical jokes.



BRAIN BUSTER



Why not find a book that combines two subjects you're interested in? If you like both science and sports, then a book such as *Sports Science for Young People* by George Barr could be the perfect game plan for you.



SUGGESTED READING LIST



Greatest Sports Stories Never Told

by Bruce Nash and Allan Zulo

How Sports Came to Be by Don L. Wulffson

I Can Be a Baseball Player by Carol Greene

Leagues Apart: The Men and Times of the Negro

Baseball Leagues by Laurence S. Ritter

Olympics! by B. G. Hennessy

Read About Gymnastics by Tim Wood

Soccer Stars by Dale E. Howard

Sport Machines by Norman S. Barrett

Take Me Out to the Ball Game by Dennis Fertig

Top 10 American Women's Figure Skaters by Margaret Poynter



Chapter 6

Looking Forward

So now you've finished your book report. Without even realizing it, you've learned more than you think you learned.

Writing a book report teaches you how things happen and how things work—basically, it's taught you how to tell a story on your own. When you think about what you liked in a book you read, you are thinking about how the book was organized.

You may have discovered how characters and plot matter to you, how descriptions of people, settings, and things make you feel, how you like information to be given to you. You may have read a story that made you laugh or made you sad. You may have learned about something you would like to try on your own.

Thinking about what you have read may help you learn how to tell a good joke or describe an emotional situation in writing. Perhaps you would like to write your own stories.

To write a story, first you need to have an idea. The idea can come from anywhere: a dream you had, a movie or TV show you saw, something you saw in your neighborhood, a lesson you had at school, a trick your pet did. Perhaps you want to describe a fun hike you went on and the things you saw. Or maybe you would like to write down some of your favorite recipes.



BRAIN BUSTER



Turn your story into a book by making a front and back cover out of colored construction paper. Write the title on the front cover and add an illustration or design. Punch two or three holes along the left edge of the cover and your story pages, and tie them together with string or yarn.



Take your idea and turn it into a story. It doesn't have to be make-believe. You can describe a funny or scary thing that happened when you and your family went camping. Or maybe you want to write about dinosaurs because you saw a TV show on them. If you want to write a make-believe story, just take a little idea and let your imagination go. If your dog just did a cool trick or a funny thing, write a story about a dog that travels to New York City to become a big star.

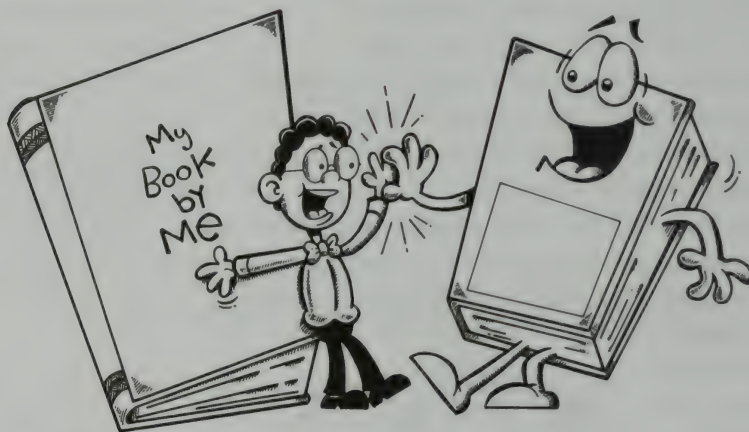
Find a comfortable place to write: your bed, your desk, wherever. You can work on a computer or just with pencil and paper. Concentrate on getting all your ideas in writing first. You can go back and make corrections later. The story can be as long as you need it to be: a few paragraphs, a page, or more. Illustrate it if you like.



BRAIN BUSTER



Let a friend write a book report on your book or story. Then write a book report on a friend's book.



OH, GROW UP!

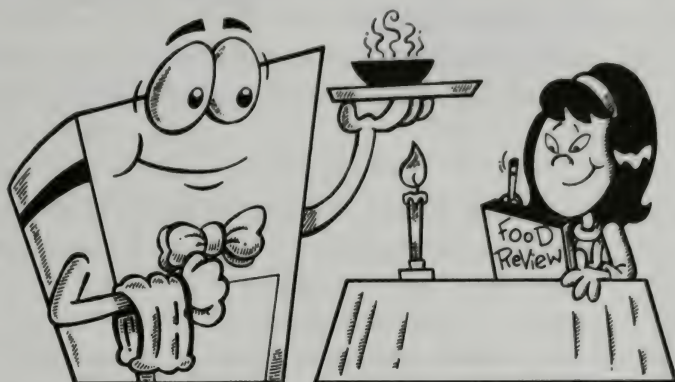
Doing a book report also can help you think about what you'd like to do when you grow up. Besides becoming a writer, you can tap into all kinds of areas you may be interested in.

By reading a book with a good plot, you may have learned what sets events in motion. When you write a story about how a baseball team won an important game, you are thinking about how the players, the rules, and the opposing team

all work together to bring about a certain outcome. You have learned to think about how things happen. Reading and thinking about sports may inspire you to play sports, watch sporting events, or even write about them. Perhaps you would like to become a professional athlete or a sportscaster!

If you read a book on how to bake bread, you may have described in your report seeing the dough rise and smelling the wonderful aroma. When you do this, you are recalling a

recipe. Did you learn about strange ingredients or new kinds of food? Did you wonder about the people who created the recipes? Perhaps you would like to try creating some of your own recipes, or write about cooking and



people who cook. You could become a chef or a restaurant reviewer!

Just how *do* they build a bridge across water? How was Mount Rushmore carved into that mountain? Who made the first computer? If you enjoy a book that tells all about how things are built and how they work, with lots of illustrations and details, you are interested in how things are designed and put together. You might want to be an architect or engineer someday!

For a book on dinosaurs, you may have told in your report how big the biggest dinosaur was, and how small the smallest one was. What did dinosaurs eat? Where was the largest dinosaur fossil found? If you are fascinated by dinosaur bones, you could become an archaeologist, a scientist who studies the creatures and things of the past!

These are just a few examples of what you may have learned from writing your book report. When you open a book, you are taking off on a special trip. You will learn more about yourself, about all kinds of people, and about the whole wide world. It's a trip you won't forget. Bon voyage and happy reading!

The Caldecott Medal Winners, 1938–2000

The Caldecott Medal is given to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children. Named for nineteenth-century British illustrator Randolph Caldecott,



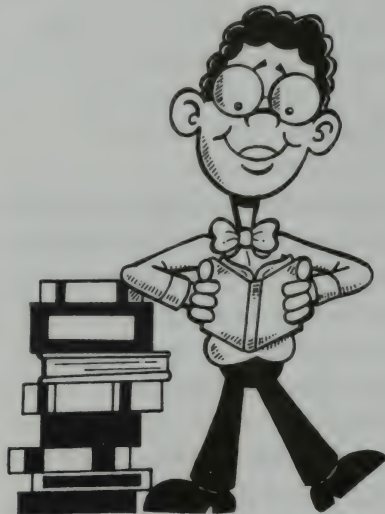
it is awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. These books are at your local library, often in their own section.

- 2000 *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback
- 1999 *Snowflake Bentley* by Mary Azarian; text by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- 1998 *Rapunzel* by Paul O. Zelinsky
- 1997 *Golem* by David Wisniewski
- 1996 *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann
- 1995 *Smoky Night* by David Diaz; text by Eve Bunting
- 1994 *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say; text edited by Walter Lorraine
- 1993 *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully
- 1992 *Tuesday* by David Wiesner
- 1991 *Black and White* by David Macaulay
- 1990 *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China* by Ed Young
- 1989 *Song and Dance Man* by Stephen Gammell; text by Karen Ackerman
- 1988 *Owl Moon* by John Schoenherr; text by Jane Yolen
- 1987 *Hey, Al* by Richard Egielski; text by Arthur Yorinks
- 1986 *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg
- 1985 *Saint George and the Dragon* by Trina Schart Hyman;
retold by Margaret Hodges
- 1984 *The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot*
by Alice and Martin Provensen
- 1983 *Shadow* by Marcia Brown; text by Blaise Cendrars
- 1982 *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg
- 1981 *Fables* by Arnold Lobel
- 1980 *Ox-Cart Man* by Barbara Cooney; text by Donald Hall

- 1979 *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* by Paul Goble
- 1978 *Noah's Ark* by Peter Spier
- 1977 *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* by Leo and Diane Dillon;
text by Margaret Musgrove
- 1976 *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* by Leo and Diane Dillon;
retold by Verna Aardema
- 1975 *Arrow to the Sun* by Gerald McDermott
- 1974 *Duffy and the Devil* by Margot Zemach; retold by Harve Zemach
- 1973 *The Funny Little Woman* by Blair Lent; retold by Arlene Mosel
- 1972 *One Fine Day* by Nonny Hogrogian
- 1971 *A Story A Story* by Gail E. Haley
- 1970 *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- 1969 *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship* by Uri Shulevitz;
retold by Arthur Ransome
- 1968 *Drummer Hoff* by Ed Emberley; text adapted by Barbara Emberley
- 1967 *Sam, Bangs and Moonshine* by Evaline Ness
- 1966 *Always Room for One More* by Nonny Hogrogian; text by Sorche Nic
Leodhas, pseud. (Leclair Alger)
- 1965 *May I Bring a Friend?* by Beni Montresor; text by Beatrice Schenk
de Regniers
- 1964 *Where the Wild Things Are*
by Maurice Sendak
- 1963 *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- 1962 *Once a Mouse* by Marcia Brown
- 1961 *Baboushka and the Three Kings*
by Nicolas Sidjakov; text by
Ruth Robbins
- 1960 *Nine Days to Christmas*
by Marie Hall Ets; text by Marie
Hall Ets and Aurora Labastida
- 1959 *Chanticleer and the Fox*
by Barbara Cooney
- 1958 *Time of Wonder* by Robert McCloskey
- 1957 *A Tree Is Nice* by Marc Simont; text by Janice Udry
- 1956 *Frog Went A-Courtin'* by Feodor Rojankovsky; retold by John Langstaff

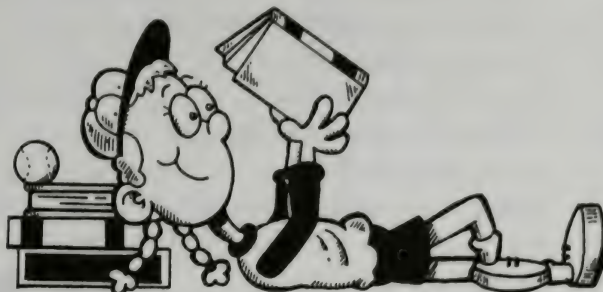


- 1955 *Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper* by Marcia Brown; text translated by Marcia Brown
- 1954 *Madeline's Rescue* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- 1953 *The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward
- 1952 *Finders Keepers* by Nicolas, pseud. (Nicholas Mordvinoff); text by Will, pseud. (William Lipkind)
- 1951 *The Egg Tree* by Katherine Milhous
- 1950 *Song of the Swallows* by Leo Politi
- 1949 *The Big Snow* by Berta and Elmer Hader
- 1948 *White Snow, Bright Snow* by Roger Duvoisin; text by Alvin Tresselt
- 1947 *The Little Island* by Leonard Weisgard; text by Golden MacDonald, pseud. (Margaret Wise Brown)
- 1946 *The Rooster Crows* by Maude and Miska Petersham
- 1945 *Prayer for a Child* by Elizabeth Orton Jones; text by Rachel Field
- 1944 *Many Moons* by Louis Slobodkin; text by James Thurber
- 1943 *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
- 1942 *Make Way for Ducklings*
by Robert McCloskey
- 1941 *They Were Strong and Good*
by Robert Lawson
- 1940 *Abraham Lincoln* by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- 1939 *Mei Li* by Thomas Handforth
- 1938 *Animals of the Bible*
by Dorothy P. Lathrop;
text selected by Helen Dean Fish



The Newbery Medal Winners, 1922–2000

The Newbery Medal was named for John Newbery, a British bookseller who lived during the eighteenth century. It is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children by the Association



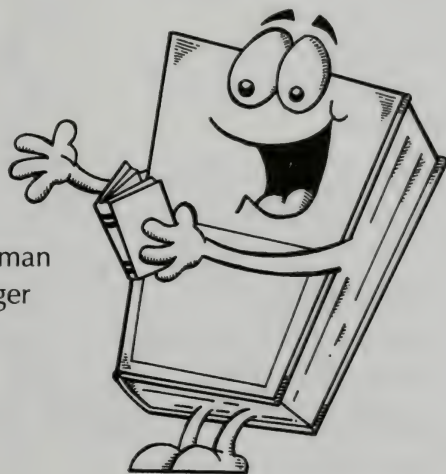
for Library Service to Children. Like the Caldecott winners, these usually are found in their own section at your local library.

- 2000 *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- 1999 *Holes* by Louis Sachar
- 1998 *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- 1997 *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg
- 1996 *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman
- 1995 *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
- 1994 *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- 1993 *Missing May* by Cynthia Rylant
- 1992 *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- 1991 *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- 1990 *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- 1989 *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman
- 1988 *Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Russell Freedman
- 1987 *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman
- 1986 *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan
- 1985 *The Hero and the Crown* by Robin McKinley
- 1984 *Dear Mr. Henshaw* by Beverly Cleary
- 1983 *Dicey's Song* by Cynthia Voigt
- 1982 *A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers* by Nancy Willard
- 1981 *Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson

- 1980 *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-1832* by Joan Blos
- 1979 *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- 1978 *Bridge to Terabithia*
by Katherine Paterson
- 1977 *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
by Mildred D. Taylor
- 1976 *The Grey King* by Susan Cooper
- 1975 *M. C. Higgins, the Great*
by Virginia Hamilton
- 1974 *The Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox
- 1973 *Julie of the Wolves*
by Jean Craighead George
- 1972 *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien
- 1971 *Summer of the Swans* by Betsy Byars
- 1970 *Souder* by William H. Armstrong
- 1969 *The High King* by Lloyd Alexander
- 1968 *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg
- 1967 *Up a Road Slowly* by Irene Hunt
- 1966 *I, Juan de Pareja* by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino
- 1965 *Shadow of a Bull* by Maia Wojciechowska
- 1964 *It's Like This, Cat* by Emily Cheney Neville
- 1963 *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- 1962 *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare
- 1961 *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- 1960 *Onion John* by Joseph Krumgold
- 1959 *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
- 1958 *Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith
- 1957 *Miracles on Maple Hill* by Virginia Sorenson
- 1956 *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Latham
- 1955 *The Wheel on the School* by Meindert DeJong
- 1954 *...And Now Miguel* by Joseph Krumgold
- 1953 *Secret of the Andes* by Ann Nolan Clark
- 1952 *Ginger Pye* by Eleanor Estes
- 1951 *Amos Fortune, Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates



- 1950 *The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite de Angeli
 1949 *King of the Wind* by Marguerite Henry
 1948 *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pène du Bois
 1947 *Miss Hickory* by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey
 1946 *Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski
 1945 *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson
 1944 *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
 1943 *Adam of the Road* by Elizabeth Janet Gray
 1942 *The Matchlock Gun* by Walter Edmonds
 1941 *Call It Courage* by Armstrong Sperry
 1940 *Daniel Boone* by James Daugherty
 1939 *Thimble Summer* by Elizabeth Enright
 1938 *The White Stag* by Kate Seredy
 1937 *Roller Skates* by Ruth Sawyer
 1936 *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink
 1935 *Dobry* by Monica Shannon
 1934 *Invincible Louisa: The Story of the Author of Little Women*
 by Cornelia Meigs
 1933 *Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze* by Elizabeth Lewis
 1932 *Waterless Mountain* by Laura Adams Armer
 1931 *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth
 1930 *Hitty, Her First Hundred Years*
 by Rachel Field
 1929 *The Trumpeter of Krakow*
 by Eric P. Kelly
 1928 *Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon*
 by Dhan Gopal Mukerji
 1927 *Smoky the Cowhorse* by Will James
 1926 *Shen of the Sea* by Arthur Bowie Chrisman
 1925 *Tales from Silver Lands* by Charles Finger
 1924 *The Dark Frigate* by Charles Hawes
 1923 *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*
 by Hugh Lofting
 1922 *The Story of Mankind*
 by Hendrik Willem van Loon



Glossary

The words that follow, which are found in this book, are terms that you should be familiar with if you are doing a book report.

author: The name of the person who creates a written work.

autobiography: The life story of a real person, written by that person.

biography: The life story of a real person, written by someone else.

call number: The number assigned to a book that is used to organize books in a library or collection.

character: A person (or an animal, creature, or thing) featured in a story.

describe: To use words to create a detailed mental picture of something.

Dewey Decimal Classification System: A system created by Melvil Dewey for cataloging library books based on 10 major categories.

dialogue: Words and sentences spoken in a story, usually between two or more characters.

draft: A first or early version.

fact: A statement that is true.

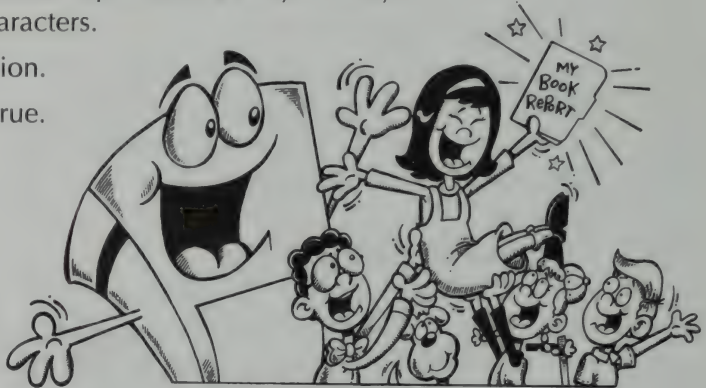
fiction: A story created from the writer's imagination that is not about real people or events.

genre: A type of story, such as mystery, science fiction, or romance.

historical fiction: Imaginary stories set in a particular time or place in history.

illustration: A picture, drawing, or photograph in a book or story that helps make something clear.

juvenile: Books or works aimed at children and young people, such as the Juvenile book section of a library.



language: words and how they are pronounced. Also, how words are used and put together so that they are understood by a certain group of people.

literature: Writings, such as stories and poems, that express interesting ideas.

mystery: A story that provides clues that are put together to explain an event, answer a question, or solve a problem.

nonfiction: A book or story that is based on fact.

outcome: The way something works out or ends. Also called *result* or *consequence*.

plot: The action that takes place in a story, or what happens to the characters in a story.

science fiction: A type of fiction based on scientific ideas and futuristic technologies.

setting: The time and place in which a story or event happens.

suspense: A type of story that has many unexpected events that are exciting and often scary.

text: The words in a printed work, such as a book, a story, a poem, a newspaper, or a magazine.

theme: The main, or central, idea of a story.

western: A story that takes place in the American Wild West.



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